

REMARKS

In regard to the objection to the specification, headings were added to the specification in the preliminary amendment filed with the national stage application.

In regard to the drawings, attached are new drawings which indicate insulated material for the connection box and gasket. Figs. 4 and 5 have been amended.

Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice to overcome the rejections relating to that claim.

In regard to the rejection of and objection to claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 4th paragraph and 37 C.F.R. §1.75(d)(1), the examiner is requested to reconsider his rejection and objection. The examiner's attention is drawn to MPEP 2173.05(f). A claim which makes reference to a preceding claim to define a limitation is an acceptable claim construction. Note the examples in MPEP 2173.05(f).

"For example, claims which read: "The product produced by the method of claim 1." or "A method of producing ethanol comprising contacting amylose with the culture of claim 1 under the following conditions"

are considered in the MPEP as acceptable claim constructions. The examiner's rejection of claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 4th paragraph and objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(d)(1) is inappropriate because the claims do specify a further limitation of the subject matter claimed in claims 5-8. The examiner is requested to reconsider his rejection.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chow (US 4,295,698). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the bearing surface and the shoulder have **complementary nonplanar** profiles with a contact surface formed at a junction between the bearing surface and the shoulder that is **greater** than that obtained by planar surfaces having a same width dimension. The complementary profiles are **interlocking profiles** oriented along an axis parallel to the axis of insertion of the contact into the socket.

Chow discloses spring rolls having rear edges 26 which are contacted by spaced arms 52. Attached as exhibits A and B are annotated copies of the drawings from Chow. Referring to Figs. 3 and 6, the front tips T of the arms 52 contact only the inner portions I of the spring rolls 24. The rear ends R/26 of the inner portions I of the arms 52 appear to be planar as seen best in Figs. 3a and 5. The front tips T of the arms 52 which contact the rear ends R/26 appear to be planar as seen best in Fig.4. Thus, when front tips T of the arms 52 contact the rear ends R/26 of the spring rolls 24 at the inner portions I, there is merely a planar-to-planar contact as shown in Fig. 6.

Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the bearing surface and the shoulder have **complementary nonplanar** profiles with a contact surface formed at a junction between the bearing surface and the shoulder that is **greater** than that obtained by

planar surfaces having a same width dimension. The complementary profiles are **interlocking profiles** oriented along an axis parallel to the axis of insertion of the contact into the socket. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in Chow. Chow does not disclose or suggest **complementary nonplanar interlocking** profiles. Again, the rear ends R/26 of the spring rolls 24 at the inner portions I of Chow appear to be planar, and merely appear to engage a planar section of the arms' 52 front tips T. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-3 and 5-8 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 9-20 have been added above. Claims 9-20 are patentable over the cited art.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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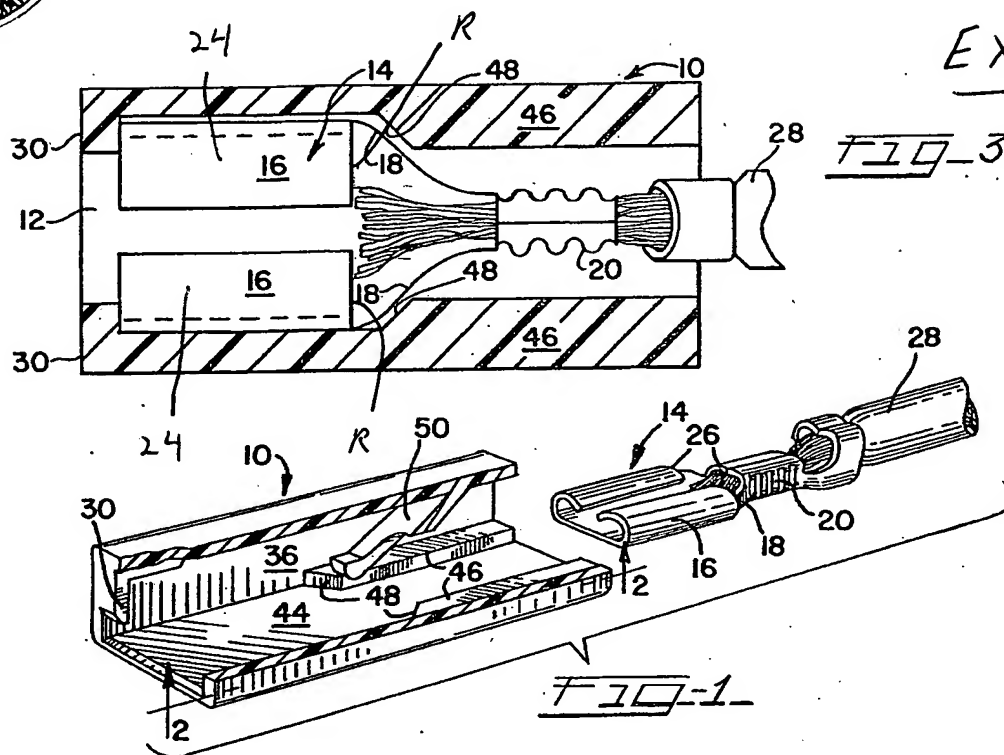
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EXHIBIT A



719-2

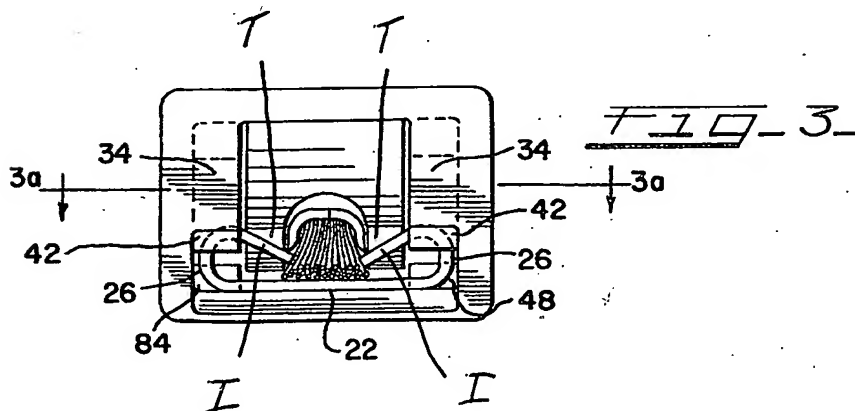
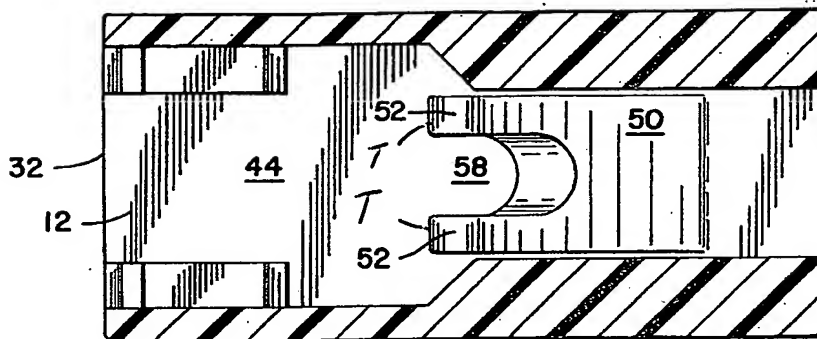


EXHIBIT B

